

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A process for supplying bubbles to a filtering membrane and cleaning an aerator producing the bubbles, the filtering membrane being immersed in a tank containing water, the process comprising the steps of:

- a) flowing a gas to an aerator to produce a pressure in the aerator sufficient to produce bubbles from the aerator which contact the filtering membrane;
- b) reducing the pressure in the aerator by venting the aerator to atmosphere through a conduit, such that water in the tank enters the aerator ~~and wets solids accumulated in the aerator~~,

wherein steps a) and b) are performed in a repeated cycle.

2. (Original) The process of claim 1 wherein step b) comprises reducing the rate of flow of gas to the aerator by at least half.

3. (Original) The process of claim 1 wherein step b) comprises stopping the flow of gas to the aerator.

4. (Canceled)

5. (Original) The process of claim 1 wherein the aerator is vented to atmosphere by opening a valve in a pipe in communication with the aerator.

6. (Original) The process of claim 1 wherein step b) is performed periodically, successive performances of step b) being separated by a pre-determined time interval.

7. (Original) The process of claim 1 wherein the aerator has holes in its bottom surface.

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Cancelled)

10. (New) The process of claim 1 wherein the tank water that enters the aerator during step (b) wets solids accumulated in the aerator during step (a).